

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Yugoslav Seizure of Cominform Files;  
Arrest of Cominform Sympathizers

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Seizure of Cominform Files

1. Upon the outbreak of the conflict between Marshal Tito and the Cominform, the latter moved its headquarters and personnel from Belgrade to Bucharest. Minister of the Interior Alexander Rankovic did not, however, allow the organization to take its files with it. It is reported that these files consisted of the following:
  - a. Documents concerning the activities of Cominform agents in Western Europe and the United States;
  - b. Documents describing the financial transactions negotiated to pay for Cominform enterprises and projects;
  - c. Documents describing the support granted the Greek guerrilla army by the Cominform.
2. Tito is believed to have intended to use these compromising documents to blackmail the Soviet Government into putting a stop to the anti-Tito offensive. The Soviets evidently refused to be intimidated.

Arrest of Cominform Sympathizers

3. The following persons were recently arrested in Zagreb under the suspicion of being Cominform adherents:
  - a. Jura Knez: Deputy in the Croatian Parliament.
  - b. Niko Rupcic: Secretary of the Praesidium of the Croatian Parliament; a well-known veteran Communist; close friend of Andrije Hebrang, the former Minister of Heavy Industry; also a friend of Balen Sime, a diplomat accredited either to Washington or to the UN, who has openly declared his pro-Cominform sympathies.
  - c. Dr. Savo Zlatic: Vice President of the Praesidium of the Croatian Parliament; served in various Croatian Government ministries and was for some time Croatian Minister of Education; a veteran Communist, he held during the war the posts of Party Secretary in Karlovac and Party Secretary for all of Slovenia; a medical doctor by profession.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. Dr. Mladen Ivekovic, Yugoslav Ambassador at Rome, has been placed under surveillance by UDB agents. To protect him from these agents, the Italian Communist Party is reported to have placed some bodyguards at his disposal. Ivekovic fell under suspicion when compromising documents concerning him were found among the papers of Hebrang. Ivekovic's mother was a sister of Tito's mother.
5. In this connection another source reports that on 31 March 1949, Ivekovic met with the following individuals at his home:
  - a. Dr. Miloslav Matusek - Czechoslovak Minister to Italy
  - b. Milos Pocak - Czechoslovak Counselor
  - c. Ivan Gavora - Czechoslovak Press Attache
  - d. Milos Jovanovic - Yugoslav Counselor
  - e. Josip De-Franceski - Yugoslav Press Attache
6. Matusek reportedly accepted Ivekovic's invitation because Ivekovic had recently evidenced lack of enthusiasm for the Tito regime.

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